

Newsletter

February 1993

CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 72

EDITORIAL

(Andrew Shaw G0HSD)

If you are going to miss a major DXpedition from one of the world's rarest countries and on your very sparse "Wants" list, then you have to do it in style. With the KH1 expedition due to fire up within a few days, I fought my way to the travel agents on a Monday lunch time, and bargained for a cheap get-away - somewhere as far as my pocket would allow from the office, house, and this desperately dank and depressing country as possible. So by the end of the same week I was driving along St. Augustine Beach in a 75 degree Florida. Oh well, "Sanity before DX" I told myself.

I had a great time. Florida is everything it is built up to be and I spent hours gazing at all the sights, listening to all the sounds of the many varied attractions and beaches. Lying on a beach reading "*The Happy Isles of Oceania*" and getting very sunburned, I was with Ian and the crew in spirit is not on the airwaves.

By the time this Newsletter appears Ian should be back safely in the UK. On behalf of all of us, WELCOME BACK!! and thanks for a terrific operation that many are bound to have chalked up for HR. As we are all aware, the operation was not as smooth, or production-line-like as we have come to expect, and highlights the very real

dangers people such as the AHI team risk to give a new one to those who sit in a warm shack with tea and cakes.

Also by the time this is published, Vincent GOLMX, will be winging his way to the Pacific to join the KHS expedition. This will be one I will try not to miss, having just failed on the previous expedition to gain a contact and especially as there is very little KHS left to be aired. Best of luck Vincent, look forward to hearing all about it.

At the CDXC Dinner, Keith G3VKW was able to announce to those present that the Committee had unanimously voted to make a donation to the KHS DXpedition. This was greeted by hearty approval from all present.

It is very heartening to see CDXC members taking part in large DXpeditions such as these. Who knows, one day the Club may organise and do its own major bash.

Finally, just a note to say that I will be resigning as editor and from the CDXC Committee from the next ARM. This is due to growing pressures and commitments that have made it difficult to find enough time to do the Newsletter and CDXC justice in the last year. During the coming year I will be moving to Manchester to attend university which will also mean I will be dropping out of the scene for some time. I appeal at this time for anyone who would like to take over as editor to contact either Alan G3PMR or myself as soon as possible.

Well that's it from me for this month. I once again appeal for any input you may have for the Newsletter or the Newsheet. Little pieces as well as large dollops are more than welcome. I am especially keen to emphasise that deadlines are important so your co-operation is appreciated.

Secretary's Update

(Alan Jubb, G3PMR)

Hi, everyone. First, may I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous 1993. In spite of the inevitable decline in propagation that we shall see this year, I trust that '93 will still be a reasonably good DX year.

CDXC COMMITTEE 1992/3

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Deadline for next Newsletter :
13 March 1993

RSGB HF Committee. I have now become a full member of the RSGB HF Committee (I was a corresponding member before). My main function will be to represent CDXC interests, and to act as link man between CDXC and the HF Committee.

DXpedition Funding. The Committee elected to donate £300 to the highly successful KH1 DXpedition. CDXC member Ian, G4LJF was an operator on this DXpedition. A further sum has been granted to the forthcoming KH5 expedition and another CDXC member Vincent G0LMX will be on that one.

Newsletter. Due to the unfortunate collating errors in the September news letter, a £60 reduction in printing costs for the December newsletter has been negotiated with the printer. A further, on going, reduction in news letter costs has been achieved by having the collating of newsletters done by G4DYO's XYL, Ruth. This is effective from this issue.

CDXC First Annual Dinner. The dinner was held at The Peacock Hotel, Henton on 13 February. There were a total of 28 people in attendance and there was a fair share of the usual joking and story telling as well as serious chat. I was particularly glad to see Phil VS6CT (whose birthday fell on that day!) and many members from the Midlands and the North who made the effort and came to join in. Many thanks to all who attended and to the organisers for a splendid night.

Club Name. The biggie! See elsewhere in this newsletter.

G3WGV Contest Log. There are now 86 registered users of this software. Note to new members: The G3WGV Contest Log is a PC contest

logging program developed by John, G3WGV. John has generously given the distribution rights of this software to CDXC, and all profits from the sale of this software go to CDXC. LOG is available from me for £20.00.

Membership List. Thanks to all who have provided corrections. These have been passed on to Ron, G6LX, who maintains the membership data base.

RSGB Call Book. One or two members have bemoaned the fact that CDXC is listed as a local club in the 1993 and previous RSGB Call Books. I have a written assurance from Brett Rider, the Call Book editor, that CDXC will be featured in the national section of the 1994 CB. I have written an appropriate entry.

Well, that's all for now.

73 de Alan, G3PMR, Secretary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Philip Weaver VS6CT

27 December 1992

I have just returned from a week's visit to Australia to visit the MRCC in Canberra and various emergency organisations in Melbourne where they are the leaders in many fields when it comes to handling Dangerous Goods and other types of emergencies. We could learn a lot from them. I had visited the Canberra Rescue Co-ordination Centre two years previously and it was good to get back and renew friendships and discuss mutual problems associated with the implementation of GMDSS.

Nothing terribly exciting happened on the trip to Australia, no adventures worth mentioning, it was all very mundane, I managed to see a couple

of movies in Melbourne but in Canberra I was marooned in the boondocks in a hotel in the middle of nowhere. I did manage to fly down first class, although booked into cattle class however, as my one and only girlfriend in QANTAS was a hostess on that flight and was in charge of the first class cabin. She managed to fill me with lots of Champagne and I had a good night's sleep after an eight course dinner.

At Melbourne, I had unfortunately left behind my address book, so was unable to make contact with a couple of friends of 20 years before, never the less I saw two movies both of which I recommend, they were 'Sneakers' & 'Strictly Ballroom'. Actually on the flight back to Hong Kong on the Saturday we saw Sneakers for a second time. That flight was the first one I had on a 767, and I was quite impressed, except for the little brat who kept going to the toilet for a quick smoke, how he did not set the smoke alarm off I cannot imagine.

So what else is new? Not a lot. We have had two vessels sinking in our area since my return, one was this morning and the other was just after I got back. Luckily with the modern position fixing devices using satellite most vessels can give us an accurate position to look for them so we usually find them and effect a rescue when needed.

On the Ham front we had our usual successful Christmas Dinner at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club on the 3rd December. We had 116 people (*Ed. !!!*) attending and door prizes for all, as a result of one of our new members giving us over 100 toys from Mattel, as he happens to be Vice President!

On the following evening we had a farewell dinner for Fernando Macedo Pinto XX9AK (CR9AK) who is finally leaving Macau after 40+ years residency. He had many interests including Motor Racing, and was one of the original organisers of the Macau Grand Prix when it started many years before. He was also a keen yachtsman having had a boat in Hong Kong for many years. 32 people attended the farewell dinner from all walks of life and different activities. It was a great send off for Fernando. If anyone would like to drop him a line or visit, his new address is: Av. de Sintra Lote 11, 5 D, 1750 Cascais Portugal TEL: 2845011.

My own summer holiday went very well, as you know, and I visited the ARRL at Newington and collected my Honor Roll pin with over 320 worked, I have also just completed my 8 band WAJA, which I reckon is quite an accomplishment and has taken me 13 years to complete. I shall be surprised if there is anyone else anywhere in the world to have it, so I hope that I can get the number 1 award for this.

Not much activity on the bands nowadays as apart from only having a ground plane, the noise on the bands in this urban environment is very high most of the time around S5-6 mark. I do occasionally get on ten metres and there is a bunch of guys who get on 28,450 every day around 0900 and work Asia and Australasia. I sometimes check in with them and get a reasonable report. (Do CDXC have any net frequency to talk to members and friends? If not, why not? We have a few retired members, such as G3MCS and with his signal he could make an excellent controller. It need only be once or twice a week I am sure.) However over Christmas I have

now put up a ten metre monobander, which should improve my signal a bit on that band so you might hear me one day. Have worked the Quemoy Island DXpedition and P5RS7 without too much trouble from here but was amazed to hear them calling "listening 200-300!!!

Brett (VS6BG) is on leave till the end of the year and busy getting our PacketCluster up and running. We have it operating on the repeater frequency, but hope, early in the New Year, to have it up on an independent frequency, (144.500) just awaiting a new antenna and a few odds and ends to arrive shortly to get it up and running from the Peak also.

Other travel plans are that I shall be going to England for the second two weeks of February and staying in the IBIS Hotel at Euston for the week of the 15th-19th, and then with mother in Sunningdale for a week before returning to Hong Kong on the evening of the 26th February. This visit is to attend IMOLSR Sub Committee meeting, and then I shall be on my hols from middle June to end July. Will be with mother for the last ten days of July.

I wish all at CDXC well and of course a happy and prosperous 1993.

Philip

STOP PRESS!!!

**Due an error by the staff
at Beaumont, the RSGB
HF Convention will now be
held over the weekend of
8th to 10th October.**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Final Chapter

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

The debate on the Club name has been going on for quite a few weeks now. The purpose of this article is to review the arguments which have been put forward by CDXC members for and against a name change, and to state the decision made by the Committee at its meeting on December 6th.

The suggestion of a name change was originally discussed back in '89, when the decision was made to stick with the name *Chiltern DX Club*. The pressures for a further consideration of a name change commenced again in mid 1992, when a few amateurs indicated that they would not join CDXC whilst it had such a parochial name. The suggestion of a name change was therefore floated in various newsletters & bulletins in late '92, with requests for views to be put to me. There follows a list of reasons put forward for and against a change. Many thanks to the following who let me have input in one form or another: G3YBT, G3KMA, GW4BLE, G3XTT, G3RIR, G0KCA, G4DYO, G0HSD, G3VKW, G4LJF, G3HCT, G3FKM, G3UOF, G/OZ7SM, G0MFO, G3AEZ, VS6CT, G3NUG.

Points made for a name change

1. Chiltern DX Club is a local name, and, to many, gives the impression that it is a local club. Certain northern amateurs have stated that they will not join CDXC whilst it has a local name.

2. The initials CDXC are also used by the Clipperton DX Club. This causes confusion internationally.

3. CDXC doesn't have a high profile internationally, so a name change would not erode the Club's status internationally.

4. Many countries have a national DX club, with a national name. The UK doesn't, and should.

5. There's a rising tide of opinion to change.

Points made against a name change

1. CDXC (name & initials) is well known internationally, and a change of name would lose the image and good will that has been built up (eg by the VP8SSI support).

2. Many other internationally known DX clubs have local names, eg NCDXF, Clipperton, HIDXA etc, and image is not a problem for them.

3. Changing the name will not change the fact that CDXC is not a high profile DX Club. Different actions are required to do that.

4. Changing the name may do more harm than good. (Golden commercial rule - never change a winning formula)

5. Some long standing members may/will leave the Club.

6. A number of members mentioned their investment in CDXC QSL cards.

Numbers for/against

<i>For:</i>	<i>Strong</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Less Strong</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Against:</i>	<i>Strong</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Less Strong</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Unconcerned:</i>		<i>4</i>

The Committee View and Decision

All the members' input, together with that of individual committee members, was reviewed by the Committee on December 8th. After much discussion (but not as much as I had expected, due to good chairmanship), the overriding view of the Committee was that there is no compelling reason to change, and that a change may cause more problems than it solves. Therefore, the Committee elected that the Club name shall remain as the *Chiltern DX Club*. (Note: if the Committee had elected to change the name, an

Extraordinary General Meeting would have had to be called to allow the membership to vote on the proposed change)

However, the Committee is mindful of the fact that it is not apparent from the Club logo that CDXC is a national DX group. The Committee therefore elected to change the CDXC logo by adding the words "*The UK DX Foundation*" underneath the line "*Chiltern DX Club*". (Note: so far as I can tell, an EGM is not required to vote on this change).

Your Committee is of the view that the above approach is the correct one at this time, and also leaves the option open to future CDXC committees to raise the UK DX Foundation profile relative to CDXC at some later date should that be the wishes of the then membership. It also means that we have captured the name for our own use before someone else does!

The GB1OTA Story

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

It was, I seem to recall, early in September when IOTA Director Roger Balister, G3KMA, rang me to say that there would be a special event station at the 1992 International HF & IOTA Convention, which would have a "rather special" call sign. I think, at that time, that Roger had in mind a call in the M series (M1OTA or M92IOTA?), or, failing that, a GB call which would stand out as being different. Roger explained that the licence would cover a period of

4 weeks, commencing around mid September. Would CDXC be interested in organising a rota of operators for the month, excluding the convention weekend? This seemed to me like an excellent way for CDXC to gain some much needed publicity internationally, so I jumped at the chance, and took on the task of organising the rota myself. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to get a call in the M series, but Roger managed to get GB1OTA.

Regrettably, there was so little time that I couldn't wait for the next CDXC Newsletter or Bulletin to request volunteers, so I used the only means open - PacketCluster. Apologies to those CDXC members who don't use PacketCluster who would have liked to have a go with an unusual callsign - GB1 is, after all, a pretty rare prefix on the HF bands - I was only able to turn up 2 QSOs in my log. If I get involved with the same task in 1993 (possible - see note on the 1993 Convention in this issue), I'll try and make sure there is time to put advance notice in the News Letter or Bulletin. I have to say that the response to my plea for operators, from CDXC members, was somewhat disappointing - I had expected to fill the rota with CDXC members, but, in the end, had to enlist the services of several non members. Also, some IOTA Committee members were allocated a day. However, every cloud has a silver lining, as Mike, G3UOF, and Roy, G4CMT, both joined CDXC following the GB1OTA operation. Neville, G3NUG also joined - following his organisation of the Convention station - see last issue. One volunteer, who I shan't name, asked for his name to be taken off the list when I said that preference was being given to CDXC members!

The GB1OTA licence actually ran from Friday 18th September until 15th October. Application forms for Notices of Variation (NOVs) allowing individuals to use the GB1OTA call from their own QTH were issued to all the operators, and the RSGB did a fine job in issuing the NOVs quickly.

Roger, G3KMA used the call for the first week, except for the 22nd, when Henry, G3GIQ had it. Then it was the convention weekend - Neville, G3NUG was responsible for the call at the convention, although I'm not sure how much control he had over its use! The station was a great hit at the convention, and drew lots of people into the CDXC room. Many licensed visitors "had a go", as well as many CDXC members. All in all, 792 QSOs were made in the 2 days of the convention, with none on the preceding Friday, as the station was being readied.

Everyone seemed to enjoy their stint; some took it fairly casually, and some took it seriously, looking at the uncivilised times in some of the logs! All had a good time with the call. I had the call for a day - a day when conditions were pretty bad, but it was fun in spite of that. The best DX that I worked was 9N1DX.

Statistics

In total, 4897 QSOs were had in 136 countries on 11 bands using 4 modes.

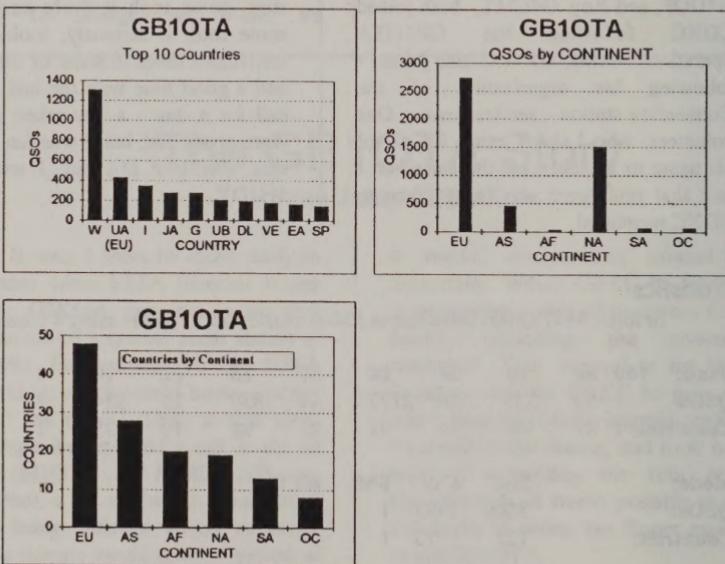
Band:	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	4	2
QSOs:	1	59	523	29	2177	41	1837	11	214	4	1
Countries:	1	22	48	14	91	22	92	10	35	1	1
Mode:											
QSOs:		SSB	CW	FM		RTTY					
Countries:		3300	1595	1		1					
		122	73	1		1					

G3KMA had most QSOs and worked most countries, which is not surprising, as he had the call for much longer than anyone else. Bill, G3MCS (a non member) achieved the highest country score for a single day slot. However, this wasn't a competitive situation - it was all a bit of fun, and the statistics should be read bearing that in mind!

The QSOs/countries worked by each operator were as follows:

Op	QSOs	Countries	Allocated Days
G3KMA	1646	85	12
G3MCS	332	73	1
G3NUG	792	61	3 (Convention)
G3UOF	527	53	2
G0MFO	383	47	1
G3NOH	402	37	2
G4WFZ	149	33	1
G3PMR	110	32	1
G3PJT	183	30	1
G4CMT	129	30	1
G0HSD	125	26	1
G3GIQ	73	24	1
G3TOK	46	17	1
G0RDI	0	0	1
Total:	4897		

The following graphs summarise a few other statistics.



Logs were supplied by the GB1OTA operators from various logging software: SHACKLOG, Turbolog, K1EA CT, and from text editors. (G3UOF's log was produced on an Amiga, and sent to me via the packet BBS system - an interesting exercise!). All logs were imported into SHACKLOG to form a single database, and all the statistics in this article were produced by SHACKLOG. To produce the graphs, SHACKLOG data was exported to Quattro Pro for Windows. (I was pre-release testing SHACKLOG v3.00 at the time, so all this proved a valuable test exercise!)

QSLing

As might be expected, there wasn't exactly a flood of direct QSLs, around 100 being received in all. A few interesting ones - a V5 QSLing direct for a G card strikes me as being a little bizarre; A W for whom GB1OTA was his first G QSO - I suppose someone has to be; A W mobile, who worked GB1OTA whilst on his bike! What surprised me most was the number requesting direct replies who didn't enclose an envelope or any form of enclosure to cover postage! QSL policy has been to reply to all who QSL, plus all UK stations. Thanks to Martin Lynch for contributing towards the cost of the QSL cards.

REFLECTIONS ON CQWWCW 1992

By Don Deattie G3OZF

I suppose it all began with a curry. John (4DQW), Andrew (OHSD) and I met for a meal to plan 1993 HF Field Day. As we pored over the computer analysis of the rather mediocre 1992 entry, we discussed contests and opportunities for "CDXC" entries.

It was about then that I realised that CQWWCW was only a couple of weeks away. In a moment of weakness I offered to host a multi-single entry if we could get enough interest. We talked about how we could operate a "multiplier" station as well as the main station, and it all seemed rather easy.

We planned that the main station would use the main HF TH6DX beam up at 80ft, and a collection of dipoles on the tower and the 160m vertical. The

"multiplier" station would use the 80/40 quarter wave verticals at the other end of the garden, and a Cushcraft R5 multiband vertical, again far away from the tower.

For equipment there was my old and trusty TS930 and Drake linear, and the new and shiny FT890 which I had used /P in TK earlier this year. Andrew would bring his linear, which would help on the low bands (the Drake covers only 80-10) and we would use a total of three computers. Two would run K1EA networked, and the third would be permanently linked to GB7DXI, with CAT connection to the FT890 for rapid QSY to enable multiplier hop.

It all went together very easily. After we got the word from Don, G3XTT, that K1EA v8.19 was not happy

in network mode, we reverted to a version 7.** copy, and all was well. Operator rosters were planned, accommodation laid on for those who would stay the week-end, and we were off.

A large note in front of each operating position said "under no circumstances must both stations use antennas on the tower at the same time". I had assumed that putting a high power RF signal into the antenna feed point a few feet away from another antenna being used for receive by the other station would not be best use of the RX front-end. But we were all experienced operators - we wouldn't make that mistake, would we ?

The score rose rapidly, with relatively good pipelines for high run rates on the "run" station, and remarkably good results from the modest antennas on the mult station.

In the enthusiasm of the hunt for multipliers, somehow we forgot the golden rule for antenna selection and tried both stations on closely-coupled antennas. The silence from the FT890 receiver was deafening. No smell of burning - just silence. Despair all round. Fortunately we had a spare FT890, courtesy of HSD, and that took over the work. A quick look at the dead one suggested that the problem might not be that serious - it seemed that the RX was OK with the attenuator in - but not out. We'll look at that later.

At the first shift change (after 6 hours) things were going well. HSD and OZF went to get some sleep and Vincent (G0LMX) and John (4DQW) took over. Five hours later and a lot fresher, I returned to the shack to find Vincent

calling and calling on the "Mult" station on the TH6DXX and getting no reply. That is most unusual. But wait - the HF beam can't be coupled to the "mult" station - I didn't allow for that in the switching. A quick investigation under the bench shows that when during the night, the TH6DXX feeder had been dropped down to connect it in to the other station, the feeder had been confused with the other spare PL259-terminated feeder on the floor. Result: we had been calling on 20 metres into a five element 6 metre beam! Correction of the fault resulted in a remarkable improvement in scoring rate and a smile of relief on the front of the linear.

The rest of the weekend was routine. Using my modest vertical, we made DXCC on 40 metres with ease. Even 160m yielded 52 countries. At the end we had amassed 2311 QSOs and some 3.1m points. Not spectacular - but a good first try at multi-single.

And the FT890 - oh yes, we blew a surface mount resistor on the input circuit - took me five minutes to fix it on the Sunday morning. I remember the days when it would have been a blown handful of transistors. Now it's the SMDs that blow !

My thanks to Vincent, John and Andrew for joining in the madness. We all had fun, and I suspect it won't be long before we have another go. For next time, we have plans. I have a spare Mustang beam in the garage, and a spare rotator head. Don't see why we can't switch the rotator control box between the two rotators. And we really will try to remember the antenna switching rules next time.

TALE OF A PARANOID DX-ER!

By Jim Kellaway G3RTE

It is not a matter of life or death. It's worse than that.

With Christmas approaching it seemed that the only thing I had to worry about on the radio front was cutting the aerial for the 80 metre AFS CW contest at the beginning of January. Why every year I have to do this beats me. New year resolutions to keep the aerial wound up neatly in the shack are always broken. It always ends up being used for other aerials during the year.

Pending rumours of any activity from North Korea were knocked on the head by the latest info to appear in the DXNS. On the Saturday before Christmas, I fought my way round the local supermarket with the XYL on the penultimate Christmas shop! - Is it ever? - On the return I had a quick look at the DX Cluster to find a spot for PSRS7! Well come off it, pull the other one. No advanced information and a rather dubious callsign to boot. Might as well ignore it and see what happens. Remember PSRR?

Sunday came and went, but by that time a bit more information was starting to trickle through. It was Romeo and some friends. The length of stay was unknown. Unfortunately on Monday and Tuesday, work had to come first but it appeared that the best times were the mornings on 15m. Wednesday arrived so up I got nice and early. (I managed to persuade the XYL to leave the final shop to a bit later in the morning, a big mistake as the supermarket was packed)... Put up the 15m quad and

pointed it short path to P5 land . Tuned around 21295 and down in the noise I could just about hear something. Listening up I could hear a pretty big pile-up but to be honest I don't think I could have made a QSO even if he had come back to me. His signal bobbed up and down in the noise but after about 10 minutes or so he completely disappeared, though he must have been much better in Europe as the pile-up was still screaming and the policemen still snarling on his frequency. I kept listening on and off during the morning as the band seemed to open well to JA and things looked promising but no sign of the station from P5 on SSB or CW.

40m in the evenings seemed like a good bet but I never did hear them on there, though I did notice Ian G4LJF calling one night which he told me later was PSRS7 but very weak on his beam.

Christmas Day arrived and I had promised the family no radio, anyway a morning visit to friends plus having to cook the dinner kept my mind off the one that looked as if it was going to slip through my fingers.

Boxing Day: so got up early again and up with the quad, same direction, same frequency. Yes there he was but just as weak as before. Surely my aerial isn't that bad? But he was there about 5 minutes before he again went right down in the noise. To rub salt into the wound I could hear stations in the pile-up asking him to QSY to 10m. Damn cheek. A cup of coffee and a quick look at DXH showed that they were now on 20m CW. I rushed down the garden

and hauled the 20m loop out of the grass and hoisted it up as quickly as I could. What! Terrible breakthrough from Brookmans Park BBC station. Water must have got into the coax. No way was I going to work him on this aerial. The SWR was worse than infinity. Went back down the garden and put the quad up again, but I never found it good on 20m. Back in the shack I could just about hear him so I gave a couple of calls on the off chance and he faded out altogether after a few minutes.

It seemed that my best bet to catch him was on 20m CW which is my favourite mode anyway. What with relations and friends due to arrive in half an hour or so I had to decide whether to repair the loop or quickly knock up a dipole. I chose the latter and had the aerial ready in about 30 minutes.

So the following day another early morning, down the garden and slung the dipole up as a sloper, switched on the rig and prepared to listen. Conditions sounded good, a JT station was coming through with a very nice signal so I gave him a call and back he

came. So at least the dipole was getting out. Carried on listening and listening AND listening... Nothing, well, had a quick look on DXH and saw that he's been reported on SSB at the top of 20m. I QSYed up and heard a lot of Russian stations talking away but what was going on? I hadn't the faintest idea. After a while I moved back down the band and had another tune over the bottom end. Then suddenly on 14001 I heard "CQ CQ de P5RS7 up 1". Dropped the old callsign a couple of time and back he came. At least, I thought, I must have been one of the last G stations to work him! Being a nice chap I put the spot onto the Cluster and carried on listening. I was surprised to hear some pretty well known DXers call and work him. Whether it was for a new band, mode or the first QSO I guess I will probably never find out. Somebody sent me a "Thanks" message on the Cluster.

Now, like everybody else, I am awaiting the QSL card. What's the betting it's "Not in the log" ? or "There was no activity at that time" ?

P29DX ROUND THE WORLD TRIP

by Steve Telenius-Lowe P29DX

Eva and I have now been back in PNG for a month (end of November) following our round-the-world trip which began in August. We were delighted to see so many friends at the CDXC pub dinner in Bledlow and only sorry not to have longer to chat with everyone. The day after the dinner we flew off to Bermuda where I made a couple of QSOs on the local repeaters, which were only accessible from where we stayed. I

did not do any operating on HF as I only had a 240 volt PSU with me, and Bermuda's main power is 110 volts. 110 volts seemed to be sufficient to receive though, and I heard a number of CDXC members working Martin, G3ZAY, in Arctic Canada. It was strange to think that only a few days earlier we had been sitting round the same table at a pub in rural England!

After Bermuda we flew onto New Orleans, where we attended the first ever New Orleans International DX Convention. This was the first DX Convention I have attended outside the UK., and I must say the Americans really know how to put on a good show. The Convention was held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel right on Bourbon Street in the heart of the French Quarter, which meant that after the radio business was over, the revelry continued all night long. The Royal Sonesta was superb, highly luxurious, and the NOIDXC organising committee had arranged a convention rate of US \$105 a night for a double room, which considering the quality of the hotel and its location was incredible value (this sort of hotel would cost £300 a night in London!)

The sort of presentations would be familiar to anyone attending the RSGB HF Convention, and included Wayne Mills N7NG on Albania, IT9AZS on his Afghanistan operation, Pete N0AFW on the F00CI Clipperton Expedition, Bob Winn W5KNE on the 1992 Christmas Island operation and WA4DAN on the Navassa Island Expedition. There was also an excellent - and at times very amusing - presentation by Rich K5UR of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. There was plenty of time for meeting and chatting with DXers, and wearing my P29DX callsign badge dozens of people introduced themselves to me to say that we had worked on one band or another. In particular it was good to meet Mike Mayer W5ZPA and his wife Rae Sara, who were both on the organising committee and immediately made us feel much more at home, and also Chod Harris VP2ML, editor of "The DX Magazine" and "The DX Bulletin".

The weekend culminated in a superb banquet laid on by the Royal Sonesta Hotel, complete with live entertainment by a Dixieland trio. I was also lucky enough to win a prize in the draw, a year's subscription to the "QRZ DX" news sheet donated by W5KNE. He joked that all of the people there I was the one who had to win that particular prize, as the cost of airmail postage more than doubled his costs! We also won the prize for the furthest distance travelled to the convention - a year's membership of NCDXF. The banquet speaker was Tony de Prato WA4JQS, who showed the video of the South Sandwich DXpedition. Much was made of the co-operation received in England by CDXC members, which helped ensure the success of the expedition, and it was amusing to see a number of familiar English faces on the video. As the only CDXC member present I felt proud to be a member, even though I was in Papua New Guinea at the time and had not been able to help at all personally.

The convention was deemed to be a great success by all and will almost certainly become an annual event. I urge anyone who can get there to go, we had a memorable time and will try to go back if not in 1993 then in 1994.

From New Orleans we went on to Los Angles and Hawaii, no radio operation from either of those places except on the 2 metre repeaters, although I did get an opportunity to call in at the Ham Radio Outlet store in Anaheim, just round the corner from Disneyland. Vice-president Jim Rafferty N6JR (ZF2JR) sold me a Yaesu FT-890 and an Icom switch mode power supply and took my FT-747GX in part exchange.

The main destination for our trip was the Pacific Islands, and from Hawaii

we flew to Fiji where we were met at the airport at 5 a.m. by Ken 3D2KM, who had kindly agreed to put us up at his spacious house in Lautoka. We had the usual problem with Fijian customs, who are officious and over-enthusiastic. Although I had a Fijian licence and an import permit for the FT-747, they would not allow the FT-890 into Fiji. Since I knew we would be staying with Ken and could use his equipment I did not argue the point. Fiji was, however, the only place in 13 countries on three continents where we had any difficulties with customs. Ken is not a DXer, although his wife Judy, who is studying for her 3D2 licence, shows signs of enlightenment! They were very hospitable and I made a few hundred QSOs as 3D2SL using Ken's 1970's-vintage Uniden transceiver and a G5RV antenna. Conditions, however, were poor during the time we were in Fiji. We met Aisea 3D2AA who is originally from Rotuma and had arranged accommodation on the island for the first expedition there when Rotuma was accepted as a new country.

Having picked up the FT-890 from Fiji customs at 5a.m. (by a remarkable piece of time-tabling all flights in and out of most Pacific destinations seem to either depart or arrive, or both, before the crack of dawn!) and set off for Tonga. I had spoken to Kevin A35KB many times from PNG and talked to him from Fiji. By coincidence he was on leave in Nuku'alofa, the capital, when we arrived (he normally lives on Tonga's most northerly island of Niuafo'ou - Tin Can Island - where he is a Roman Catholic priest) and he kindly met us at the airport. Kevin took us to the Telecom office to pick up my A35VG licence,

which was waiting in the "out-tray" for our arrival. Fr. Kevin, originally from Lancaster, has lived in Tonga for 26 years, speaks fluent Tongan, and is a very interesting character.

Our accommodation in Tonga, however, was on Fafa Island which is about a half-hour boat ride from the wharf in Nuku'alofa. Fafa is uninhabited except for a "resort" consisting of a dozen local-style huts or "fales" and the staff who run the place. The big surprise there was that although the accommodation was pretty basic the food was of international-hotel standard. Electricity was provided by a 240 volt generator which was turned off about 11p.m. local time.

Right outside out fale there was an absolutely straight coconut palm about 50 feet high which one of the local lads climbed for me and provided a superb support for the end of a dipole, I used 40m and 20m dipoles on the same feeder, at right angles to each other, with one end of the 40m dipole up at 50 feet and the far end of the 40m dipole was within a few feet of the lagoon and with 5km of open sea in all directions and being high and in the clear it really looked as if it should work well.

I was not disappointed and was soon working Europeans not just on 20m, which I had hoped for, but also on 40m. Having battled to work Europe on 40m from PNG with 400 watts (plus) I was surprised at just how easy it was from Tonga with just 100 watts and a very simple antenna. Some signals - notably G3FPQ, GW4BLE and GW4OFQ - were genuine 58 or 59 signals. (It was interesting that the strongest signals from Europe were not from Russia, Italy or even Germany, but from the UK!!)

The peak of propagation on 20m coincided with dinner time, and as already mentioned the food was very good, so several hours of pile-up time were missed while eating. The idea of using the 40m and 20m dipoles on the same feeder was that I would easily be able to operate on 15m with a reasonably efficient antenna. The built-in ATU in the FT-890 meant I could get a 1:1 SWR on all bands, even 80m, although I'm sure the efficiency on 10, 12, 17 and especially 80m left a lot to be desired. Conditions on the higher frequency bands seemed to be very poor, and I could not get a good pile-up going except on 20 and 40m. One phenomenon that I first noticed in Tonga (but which also happened in Niue and Samoa) was that propagation appeared to be very good until around 10 p.m. or 10.30 p.m. local time, with plenty of Europeans being worked on 20m, then suddenly they would all stop calling. I would work a few JA's or W's and the ever present VK's and ZL's but half-an-hour later the band died altogether. This meant that the generator going off at 11 p.m. was not as much of a problem as I thought it might be. While in Tonga I suffered from a relapse of malaria contracted in PNG, which meant that I spent less time on the radio than I had hoped for.

After a couple of days in Western Samoa staying at the famous Aggie Grey's hotel (without radio operation) we took the weekly Samoa Air flight to Niue. Upon arrival I met John Duncan ZK2JD, the only resident amateur on Niue, at the Telecom office in Alofi and received my licence, ZK2XG. We had booked self-catering accommodation in a one-bedroom bungalow-style guest house which again had a coconut tree in the back garden, although not quite as

tall as the one on Fafa Island, and this time no-one to climb it. For the first evening I therefore put up just the 20m dipole in a low fruit tree about 8 or 10 feet high. With just 100 watts to such a pathetic antenna I thought I would hardly be able to get a signal off the island, but again I was rewarded with large pile-ups of Europeans on 20m: conditions were obviously still superb.

The next day I bought some light nylon fishing line in Alofi and eventually, at about the 24th attempt, managed to throw a stick tied to the line perfectly over the top of the palm tree. It took the whole of the remainder of the day to get the same antenna arrangement as used in Tonga up and running - bearing in mind how well the antenna had worked in Tonga and the previous evening's experience with the low 20m dipole - I could hardly wait to see how well it was going to perform from this, the rarest of my Pacific stops. Unfortunately it seems conditions must have deteriorated very rapidly as I never did get the same sort of pile-ups again from Niue, and 40m in particular was disappointing, although I did take advantage of the 7000-7300 kHz 40m privilege and worked a lot of Americans in their phone band without having to operate split.

Niue is a limestone island with high cliffs all the way round and very few beaches. Instead it has caves, chasms and rock pinnacles similar to Nauru or Banaba. Fresh water permeates through the limestone, gouging out the caves, mixing with the salt water when it reaches the sea to create pool which look almost oily as the fresh and salt water mix. Once a week there is a Niuean feast organised by the family who owned the house where we stayed. Dinner included roast pig, fish and coconut crab. These

monsters grow as big as a football and have claws that can cut fingers or probably whole limbs off. They are called coconut crabs as they can climb up a vertical coconut tree and cut the coconuts down, then crack the shells open with their claws. They are quite common in Niue and we came across one on the road, and another crawled up the wall and across the roof while we were eating.

Back in Western Samoa I got my callsign - 5W1SL - from Colin Schultz at the main post office in Apia and we spent three days on the larger but more remote island of Savaii, where we stayed at a place where it was not possible to operate. We moved back to Apia and ended up in self-catering beach cottages right on the sea. This time there were unfortunately no suitable palm trees, so again I had to resort to a 20m dipole only a few feet off the ground. Whether it was because it was right on the sea front, with a clear take off towards Europe for thousands of miles, I don't know, but again I was amazed at how well I was getting out. Big pile-ups of Europeans and good reports from what can only be described as a truly pathetic-looking antenna. I can only assume that

conditions had improved considerably once again, and that the location right on the water's edge made all the difference.

Finally back in PNG we were joined by Don G3OZF for the CQ World Wide SSB contest which we had planned to do with a group of other P29's from my contest site. Unfortunately at the very last minute, and with G3OZF already in Singapore en route to P29, permission to use the site, was withdrawn. This disaster meant we had to work from the P29DX home QTH using just a Butternut HF6V vertical and a dipole. Because of the close proximity of the antennas we did not risk using a second station for multiplier hunting, and the final score was 3.4 million points from 2800 QSOs - certainly not the Oceania record we had been hoping for.

I now have a new address: P.O. Box 7416, BOROKO, Papua New Guinea. QSLs for A35VG, ZK2XG, 3D2SL and 5W1SL should be going out by the time this is read.

(Ed. Those curious about travelling in the Pacific ought to try Paul Theroux's new book "Happy Isles of Oceania" - well worth a read!)

UZBEK AMATEUR VISITS THE UK

BY BARRY STEELE, G3LZK AND PHIL WHITCHURCH, G3SWH

Established readers of this learned journal and users of the Cluster system may remember the May 1991 mini DX-expedition to Uzbekistan by Barry and Phil. At the time, Uzbekistan was firmly a central Asian Republic in the old Soviet Union. Their exploits were written up in

the RNARS, CDXC and FOC magazines. Short presentations were also given at various amateur radio clubs, including the Cheltenham Amateur Radio Association.

It was always hoped that it would be possible for our host, Nazim UI8AA

and his wife, Merxem to visit us in the UK, although we anticipated that it may be even more difficult to achieve than our visit to Tashkent. After some deep discussions, and preliminary enquiries, Barry sent to Nazim in November 1991 an 'official' invitation to visit him, valid for any date between March 1992 and October 1993. This broad date span allowed for any delay factors which Nazim might encounter in dealing with his local authorities etc, especially as the USSR had broken up and become the CIS only a matter of weeks before. The invitation was phrased in the manner prescribed by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and whilst this was fairly basic in format, it was necessary that he undertook to guarantee Nazim financially in all respects after his arrival, coupled with an undertaking that both he and his wife would return to Tashkent. God knows what would have happened if, on their arrival at Heathrow, they had sought political asylum - we suspect that Barry would have been forced to leave the country for some remote Pacific atoll (having first established that it was a rare DX location and that he could obtain a licence to operate).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office clearly indicated that any invitation had to be witnessed by a solicitor, and his practice stamp affixed. We had previously been told that Russian officials liked 'oval' shaped stamps in preference to square or rectangular ones, so as Barry was at the time employed by a Company which made such things he duly obtained an oval stamp and presented it to his friendly neighbourhood local solicitor, who was much amused by the whole thing. Nazim received this duly signed and stamped

document quite quickly and lodged it with his local bureaucracy, and there it sat as Nazim indicated that he considered it unlikely that they could afford the air fares concerned, particularly as they were seeing the start of what has become rampant inflation in the whole of the CIS.

Barry and Phil decided to use some of their remaining US dollars to help with the fares, as the exchange rate was most favourable and began to send the odd ten or twenty dollars with letters to Nazim. Some of them certainly arrived safely, but most were stolen by the Moscow (probably) postal workers, to whom a few dollars represented more than a week's wages when changed on the black market. The grapevine led us to believe that a British amateur was about to visit Moscow, and we contacted him to enquire whether he would be willing to take over about \$400 in cash and handing it to a well known Moscow DX'er who spoke excellent English and with whom we had already put Nazim in touch. Let us give the name "Ivan" to this DX'er in order to preserve his true identity! Our British traveller was agreeable and met up with 'Ivan' in Moscow and passed over our cash. Nazim was in telephone contact with 'Ivan' on a fairly regular basis and arranged for the money to be passed down the pipeline to him in Tashkent without any problems.

In early May 1992, Barry received a letter from Nazim to the effect that his local authorities had refused to accept the invitation, as it had not been countersigned by our local police! This unexpected requirement was also news to the Foreign and Commonwealth office. Barry hastily put together a fresh invitation, this time signed by both the solicitor and the local police force, and

posted it off to Nazim on 27th May. Copies were also sent to 'Ivan' in case there were further problems with the mail to Tashkent, and to the British Embassy in Moscow, advising them that they would be receiving in due course an application from Nazim and his wife for an entry visa to the UK together with a request that they deal with it promptly when it was presented. In an unscheduled QSO with Nazim in July, he told Barry that he had not received either the second invitation, or indeed the back-up copy sent via 'Ivan'. Nazim was still hopeful of making the trip, but said that the almost weekly rises in the cost of air tickets was giving him some doubts. Yet another invitation was drawn up and sent via the GPO's 'Swiftair' service at some cost, and this was received within 48 hours.

We then put our heads together and had a good look at our bank balances before deciding that we could afford to send some more dollars to help out. Again the grapevine was working and we had the choice of either a British amateur making the journey to Moscow in the near future, or a Russian amateur currently in the UK and returning shortly, for carrying the cash. After a quick phone call to Moscow it was decided to use the Russian as courier, as he was known to 'Ivan'.

About this time, Nazim wrote to tell us that he had had a telephone installed in his own home. A check of the British Telecom directory revealed that international direct dialling was available, so we tried to call Nazim, without success. This was put down to the vagaries of the Russian telephone system, which has something of a reputation. In another QSO, Nazim told Barry that he had been informed that his

local bureaucracy would be issuing his passport and exit visa on 20th August. Once it was in his possession, he had to personally apply for his UK entry visa at the British Embassy in Moscow, and he was planning to arrive in the UK about 20th September for about two weeks. This seemed absolutely perfect, as it would allow us to take him to both the RSGB/IOTA HF Convention in Windsor on 26/27th and to the FOC Dinner at Lords the following weekend. We had already agreed between ourselves that they would stay for one half their visit at Barry's and the other at Phil's houses, but not which would be first.

After many abortive telephone calls and unintelligible recorded messages in Russian, Phil contacted International Directory Enquiries, who casually remarked that the published code was wrong, and that an extra digit was required! We re-dialed and were almost immediately answered with a gruff 'Da?'. It was Nazim, who couldn't believe it was Phil. He told us that he would be travelling between Tashkent and Moscow by train as it was cheaper than flying, but that the journey would take two days. He also said that he would not buy his tickets from Moscow to London until he had the UK entry visa in his hand, and that he would be getting a lot of help from 'Ivan' in dealing with our Embassy.

At about 6 pm on 9th September Barry received a phone call from 'Ivan' to the effect that the British Embassy in Moscow would not accept the photostat copy letter of invitation from Barry which Nazim was carrying. The original had of course been lodged with the Uzbek authorities in Tashkent. 'Ivan' did say that the Embassy would accept a fax letter from Barry confirming the

invitation, and that he and Nazim would be going back to the Embassy at 10 am Moscow time the following day to collect the visa. Barry quickly formulated a fax and, as Moscow is two hours ahead of UK time, and we were still on BST then anyway, we both rushed into Bristol to try to find an accessible fax machine. The so called 'emergency' access arrangements to Phil's office building failed miserably, but we were fortunate that the caretaker in Barry's old office building let us in and looked the other way whilst we used the fax machine there.

The following day, Barry received another phone call from 'Ivan' to tell us that Nazim and Merxem would be arriving at Heathrow at about 8 am UK time on 11th September. Phil hastily booked a day's leave and we planned to get up about 5 am to travel to Heathrow to meet them. He also telephoned Brendan McCartney, G4DYO, who works at Heathrow, to let him know when Nazim was arriving, and he immediately said "I don't know of an Aeroflot flight from Moscow arriving at that time" which caused us to think a bit further and to consult the Aeroflot timetable, and we couldn't find a flight at that time either! Another phone call to 'Ivan' in Moscow clarified matters - Nazim was scheduled to leave Moscow at 8 am UK time, which put him on a flight scheduled to arrive at about 11 am.

Barry is an aeroplane enthusiast, and welcomes any excuse to go and look at aircraft or things aeronautical, so we left home at 7.30 am to travel the 90 minutes or so to Heathrow to meet an 11 o'clock flight. On arrival, we parked in the Terminal 2 short stay car park, at about £1 per hour. Admittedly, we had an invitation from Brendan to have a

conducted tour of the Heathrow control tower, which would have filled the time in nicely, but you know what they say about the best laid plans of mice and radio amateurs, don't you? It was during the tour of the control tower that Bren found out that the flight was two hours late. Barry was delighted, as he could look at more aircraft, but Phil was not so enamoured, as it was his car in the 'short stay' car park.

The flight eventually arrived and we watched the big Aeroflot Illyusin taxi up to the loading ramp then went inside the terminal building to wait in the arrivals area. There was the usual crush and we seemed to be waiting for ages, but it was probably no more than about 40 minutes or so. Suddenly the airport public address system made the announcement "Will Mr Barry Steele, meeting Mr Nazim Tahtarov from Tashkent please report to Airport Information". We forced our way through the crush to the information desk, wondering "What's gone wrong now?" and Barry jumped the queue waiting for attention on the grounds that we had received a page, and we were told to report to Immigration Control. Barry's mind began working overtime, thinking about all those legal undertakings into which he had so lightly entered without much consideration of the consequences. He was initially undecided whether to book that flight to the exotic island or address the immediate problem.

When we reported to the Immigration office, we had a short wait, as they did not seem to know what we were talking about. After a short wait, an Immigration Officer came to the desk holding two Russian passports. He must have seen the worried looks on our faces,

as he very quickly assured us that there was no problem, but as he spoke no Russian and Nazim's English was a bit rusty he was more than a bit concerned to confirm that there was actually someone there to meet them and he was not just going to launch these two bewildered Russians into Terminal 2 of Heathrow Airport, which would be in nobody's best interests. What we later called the acceptable face of bureaucracy. After a further short wait, Nazim and Merxem appeared carrying their luggage and we headed for the car park. The fee for the day's parking was £9, but Barry paid his half and we headed down the M4 towards Bristol.

Such is the way of things, but one of the first questions which we asked was how long they were intending to stay, as our plans for Windsor and Lords were under threat. Phil also had to book a week's leave from his job. As they had almost arrived out of the blue, we had by then agreed that they would stay at Barry's first, as he was recently retired. This arrangement also gave Phil a chance to make the necessary arrangements with his boss and his staff to keep the wheels of industry turning in his absence. Nazim told us that they were booked on a late morning flight from Manchester on Sunday 27th September, the day of the HF Convention. Our plans to introduce them to the UK DX-ing fraternity seemed foiled, even to the extent of not being able to attend the Convention ourselves, but Barry kindly offered to drive them to Manchester so that Phil could attend on the Sunday, no doubt happy at the chance of further aircraft spotting.

The journey down the M4 took the usual hour and a half or so, and Nazim's English improved markedly, but

he had to translate almost all of our conversation for Merxem's benefit, although we got the impression that she understood more than she let on. Our Russian is almost non-existent and Nazim's English limited, so we found that it was absolutely necessary to have a Russian/English dictionary on hand at all times, so that we could point to the English word we needed and let Nazim read off the Russian, and vice versa. There was naturally much to talk about and much hilarity. Our visitors were very excited, taking in all the scenery and points of interest. They particularly commented on the quality of the motorway surface and the speed at which the cars were travelling - the 70 MPH maximum seems to be largely ignored these days. One of the matters which had been giving us cause for concern was their diet and how would they cope with English food. We knew that they were Muslims and that strictly speaking were not allowed to eat ham or pork on religious grounds. Needless to say, this meat forms a high proportion of the British diet. We carefully broached the subject and were immediately reassured that they ate it at home and there would be no problem.

Nazim also told us that they had been required to pay half of their air tickets in Roubles, and the other half on US Dollars. The exchange rate at that time was 200 Roubles to \$1, 300 Roubles to the £1 sterling and Barry was shown the tickets, which cost 194,500 Roubles each for the journey Moscow/UK/Moscow, and obviously excluded the cost of the train fares from Tashkent to Moscow and the air fare from Moscow to Tashkent on the return journey, which they had yet to buy. Inflation within the old USSR was (and

still is) rampant and they had decided to travel now, as they may not be able to afford to do so if they waited a further year or more.

After a short stop at Membury Services on the M4 for a cup of tea and a snack we arrived at Barry's house in the village of Backwell at about 5.00 pm and Phil unloaded the car and headed off home. Barry and Helen then got down to planning the various excursions for the next seven days and they all spent the first evening catching up on news of their family and friends in Uzbekistan whom we had met, taking the dogs for a walk, etc. After a snack supper, Merxem claimed that she was tired after the journey and went to bed early. Nazim took the opportunity to have his first session on the air.

It was disappointing that, after the trouble that Nazim had obviously gone to in arranging special callsigns for us to use during our visit to Tashkent, we were unable to reciprocate. Nazim had gone to some trouble to obtain an authenticated English translation of his UI8AA licence and Phil had been in touch with John Bazley, G3HCT who is the Chairman of the RSGB's Licensing Advisory Committee and suggested that G0/UI8AA could be used, but this suggestion was firmly squashed, on the basis that there is no reciprocal licensing agreement in place between the UK and the USSR/CIS. We do not blame G3HCT for this decision, as we are aware that he personally raised the matter with the senior civil servant at the RA responsible for such matters. Maybe we should have just done it and expressed surprise if anybody queried it afterwards.... As a result, we were told by G3HCT that Nazim was authorised to use either G3LZK's or G3SWH's

callsigns under the licensee's supervision, providing that we were happy that he was properly licensed in his own country, and by the way, could he please have a copy of Nazim's licence in Russian to pass on to the RA for further evaluation.

Barry runs a Kenwood TS-940 and Nazim is a keen constructor, so he had the casing off fairly quickly. He was obviously staggered at the complexity of the rig and what he saw inside it. He is in fact in the process of constructing a new transceiver and busily noted down various details and items of interest which he could put to use in the new rig. In one of their shopping expeditions, Barry took him to our local 'emporium' and bought him a quantity of dial knobs and rocker switches, with which he was delighted and which seem to be unobtainable as new in Uzbekistan.

Nazim had brought with him the infamous hacksaw blade keyer which had caused Barry so much trouble in Tashkent and was quite surprised when the reverse situation occurred and it would not interface with Barry's Star-Master keyer. Fortunately he quickly converted to Barry's Bencher paddle and iambic keying. He frequently used SSB and on the first evening was particularly pleased to hook up with his great friend Lew in Tashkent. Barry could not understand a word which was being said but it seemed obvious that he was describing Barry's set up and the visit so far in some detail and the word 'fantastica' was used regularly. Quite a pile up built and he later told us that many enquiries were made by CIS stations as to how and why he had travelled to the UK. He obviously enjoyed being able to narrate his story and used every opportunity to get on the air.

They were up early on Saturday 12th and faced their first British breakfast. They were somewhat suspicious of 4 different cereals on the table, but finally plucked up courage to try a minute amount - dry. It took a little cajoling for them to add sugar and milk, but by the end of the week they were mixing all four into one helping with copious amounts of milk and sugar which they then devoured with relish. Initially, bread was eaten dry but by the end of the week, with butter, jam and/or marmalade. Tea and coffee was always drunk black, but well laced with sugar. Bacon and eggs were also much enjoyed. In all their travels, they seemed to enjoy the different diet and whilst Nazim only had a small appetite, Merxem excelled herself and particularly enjoyed anything with chocolate and Cornish cream and literally devoured milk chocolate bars.

Knowing what little is available in the shops in Tashkent, Barry and Helen were understandably a little anxious about their first shopping expedition. They need not have worried, as the visitors adapted themselves quickly and mastered easily the conversion of sterling prices to both dollars and roubles. It was interesting to see how quickly they were able to identify the cheaper shops and what they could afford with their limited funds. The morning was spent looking at everything and noting what they would like to purchase on a return visit.

The food shops intrigued them enormously as there was so much variety. It puzzled them as to why we had a choice of 6 or more types of rice and countless choices of the same types of jams, etc. When they first entered a supermarket they just stopped in their tracks and, after an initial look, Nazim just put his hands over his eyes and

laughed! Merxem was more taciturn but was nevertheless very obviously intrigued and not much missed her eyes. Knowing something of their country and their lack of so much that we take for granted, one could not help but feel slightly embarrassed, even though they showed no apparent envy or resentment of anything they saw.

Nazim and Merxem always had a small gift or two for the people they met and seemed to have an endless supply of small token gifts, including some beautifully printed and photographed books of Uzbekistan. Knowing this was likely to happen, we alerted our friends and relatives to their generosity and they were thus not embarrassed by having nothing to offer in return. We just hope that their financial resources were not too depleted by this level of generosity.

A very full programme of trips was planned, including visits to Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Cheltenham and the Cotswolds, south Devon, Poole, the New Forest and Lymington, Cheddar and Wells. There was also time for a shopping trip to central Bristol.

Saturday morning was the agreed day of the change-over, and Jan and Phil arrived about at 10 am to collect Nazim and Merxem for the next part of their stay. After coffee and the inevitable comparison of notes about the previous week, Phil and Jan loaded the car and drove off to the village of Congresbury, which is about 5 miles from Barry's village. We installed them in their room, showed them the facilities and introduced them to our two teenaged children.

Jan is a meticulous planner as well as running her own business, and both she and Phil had both taken a week's leave to entertain their visitors. They had spent most of the previous

week setting out where they were going on which days, what and when they were going to eat at home (then cooking and freezing it beforehand if possible) and when they were going to be away for meals etc.

The first activity was a visit to the local pub to introduce them to some friends and to have some lunch. The Old Inn in Congresbury is a 'proper', old fashioned pub with a smoky atmosphere which serves a limited selection of first class real ale. Merxem drank fruit juice, but Nazim was tempted with a pint of draught Bass, which he declared to be to his taste and, much to Phil's amusement, that Barry had not given him anything like that! After a couple of hours we headed for home and exchanged gifts. Amongst other things, Nazim presented us with a bottle of proper Russian vodka and a bottle of his home made cognac. Merxem got unpacked and organised their room whilst Nazim went on the air.

He quickly found that he could not cope with Phil's vibroplex bug key and asked for the microphone, which Phil managed to find and to dust off all the cobwebs. He then found that he didn't remember how to set up his FT-101ZD for SSB, and had to get the manual out! It was obviously a major shock to the rig to be used on SSB, as it didn't perform very well and gave nowhere near the sort of results which Nazim had enjoyed at Barry's. Halfway through the week, we contacted Barry and arranged to borrow his paddle and keyer so that Nazim could continue on the air. Barry was forced onto SSB and later admitted to have joined a 'list' but declared that working DX was far too easy on this mode and that he would stick to CW in future.

A very hectic week was planned, with visits to London, Bath, Oxford,

Stratford on Avon, Torquay and a final shopping trip to Bristol. The strain of rushing about the countryside was beginning to tell on Merxem and the trips to Oxford and Stratford on Avon were abandoned in favour of quiet days at home.

On Thursday evening, Phil had issued an open invitation to the local amateur fraternity to come to his house to meet Nazim. Andy G4OJH, Adrian G0CAC, Pete G4DVP and Nick G3VNC arrived at about 8 pm and Nazim brought out another bottle of his private stock of vodka which, together with the cognac was a great success, even if most visitors were driving.

After much discussion, it was decided to abandon our planned trip to visit Jan's sister in Torquay on Friday in favour of a trip to the Windsor Safari Park. This was because it was conveniently located for the ICL Beaumont Training Centre where the RSGB HF and IOTA Convention was being held and it would be the only opportunity for us to introduce Nazim to other amateurs outside the Bristol area. We had also been invited to attend the evening buffet at Roger G3KMA's house in nearby Chertsey. Phil's daughter also managed to persuade us to let her take a day off school to come with us.

The weather was not very kind, and they arrived at the safari park in a fine drizzle. There must have been as many as 20 other people there that day, and it is a matter of record that it was closed by the Receivers shortly afterwards. They could find nowhere indoors to eat our picnic lunch and had to resort to eating it on their laps in the car. However, the big cats seemed oblivious to the weather and the visitors were quite thrilled to see live lions and

tigers for the first time. The dolphin display was quite spectacular, and Phil insisted on going back for a second time!

They arrived at the Beaumont at about 5 pm to find most people already in the bar. The girls went off to find somewhere to change ready for Roger's party and Nazim and Phil made some new acquaintances and renewed some old ones. The CIS were well represented with RA3AUU from Moscow, UA9OBA, UA9OPA and UZ9OA from Novosibirsk and UY5XE from the Ukraine, so Nazim and Merxem were spared some of the strain of speaking English for a while. After an hour or so, it was time to leave for G3KMA's house armed with a map and closely followed by Paul G4BKI.

Roger's hospitality was tremendous. He had hired a marquee for the garden which contained tables groaning with food and drink. The kitchen was a hive of industry with his wife, daughters, friends and neighbours working flat out to serve food, wash glasses and generally cope. All present thoroughly enjoyed it. As Phil was the only one with a camera who was driving (and thus had to keep sober), he was appointed 'official' photographer and spent lots of time taking candid snaps of the visitors. On receiving the prints, Roger commented that he had quite a job sorting out who was who! The party broke up at about 10 pm and they arrived home at about midnight.

Nazim and Merxem were delivered back to Barry and Helen's house the following morning and it was arranged to meet up again in the evening for a final meal at a pub in Clevedon. After lunch, Barry and Helen took them over the Severn Bridge into Wales and looked round the massive ruins of the

medieval Chepstow castle and the more modern shops.

The evening meal was attended by 10, as some friends of Jan and Phil were included as well as some American visitors of theirs en route for their home in California after a business trip to South Africa. All enjoyed a super meal with plenty of wine and it was a fitting last night to their stay.

The following morning, Barry and Helen drove the 180 miles to Manchester airport, stopping on the way for breakfast and arriving at the airport in good time for Nazim and Merxem's flight at 1320. Before their departure, Barry's middle son, David arrived to meet them and again Nazim and Merxem got out their bag of gifts and gave him a present. Needless to say he had something for them.

Helen had had the idea to collect picture postcards of the various places which they had all visited and to put them into a scrap book for presentation as a final gift at Manchester airport. This was in addition to the 2 or 3 films worth of colour prints which both Barry and Phil took, copies of which were also handed over as souvenirs.

Nazim and Merxem expressed their appreciation for their holiday, and with a few tears finally went through to the departure lounge. As they left, Nazim groped for the by now well thumbed dictionary and made the final comment that for them their visit had been a "fairy tale".

CONTEST NEWS

AFS SSB 1993: CDXC managed to put in a very healthy entry for this event. The main team, consisting of G4BUO, G3OZF and G0HSD managed a total claimed score of 6,200 points...this should put us well up the table this year. Keith, G3VKW also managed a very impressive score and has submitted his log as the "B" team. Thanks Keith for all your efforts.

National Field Day 1993: Any volunteers to man the station or help out on the site please? Please contact G3OZF.

WANTED! CONTEST CO-ORDINATOR

The Committee is appealing for a contest co-ordinator to help organise and draw together Club entries. There are many contests where clubs or groups can enter and unfortunately people have been left out in the cold because they did not know that the Club had planned to enter a contest as Multi-Single etc... The contest co-ordinator would be the focal point of the clubs activities and the person that is contacted should anyone want to take part in a club event or wish to hold one. Having one central person will eliminate vagaries and help to raise the profile of the Club in contests...as well as having a lot of fun as well!!

If you would like to volunteer for this responsible but not onerous job, please contact Alan, G3PMR.

DON'T FORGET THE COMMONWEALTH CONTEST!!

13/14 MARCH

RULES: SEE OCTOBER'S RADCOM

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

- CDXC Ought to be doing ?
- Of the Newsletter and Newsheet ?
- Of CDXC ?

If you have any thoughts on the above or any comments at all, the Committee would like to hear them. Please write to G3PMR.

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the CDXC Committee, I'd like to welcome the following new members to CDXC,

RS 93162	Dariush Rouhani-Fard	(Warrington)
G4YRR	Ron Rushton	(Stoke on Trent)
GM4XLU	Edward Wallace	(Cumbernauld)
GM0EGI	Brian Devlin	(Stonehouse)
G4WVX	Bruce Gilson	(Slough)

I hope that you will all enjoy being members of CDXC, that you get lots out of the Club, and that you put plenty back, too!

Newsletter Contributions HELP!!

Many thanks to those of you who have provided a varied and interesting selection of articles over the years. However new material is always required, so please, put your thinking caps on and see what you can come up with. It need not be a contender for the Booker Prize, small fillers are very important. If you have been anywhere, done anything - PLEASE TELL PEOPLE IN THE NEWSLETTER!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To Dan G0NXJ who has almost achieved Honor Roll under that call while he has been in the UK for the US State Department. Amazing! Dan leaves the UK in June...let's hope he can finish it off before then.



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2006A	3CX800 800W o/p for 50W drive on 50MHz	£1495.00
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CB2F/5K	50	3KPEP 4:1	£105.75
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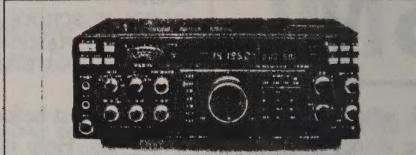
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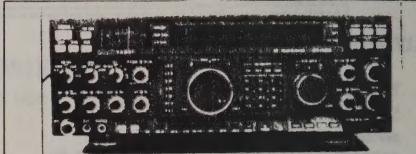
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